

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                    1.        A method for distributing streaming media through a network of  
2 computers in a secured manner to a client device, the method comprising:  
3                    forming a secured media object and a residual mask for the secured media  
4 object, the secured media object being disabled;  
5                    replicating the secured media object into a plurality of secured media object  
6 copies 1 through N, each of the secured media object copies representing the secured media  
7 object, where N represents an integer greater than 1;  
8                    transferring the secured media object copies 1 through N into respective  
9 distribution servers 1 through N through a network;  
10                    storing the secured media object copies 1 through N in memories of the  
11 respective distribution servers 1 through N;  
12                    scheduling delivery based upon a selected time and date of one of the secured  
13 media object copies at one of the distribution servers to a client device through the network;  
14 and  
15                    transferring the selected secured media object copy from the selected  
16 distribution server at the selected delivery time and date through the network.

1                    2.        The method of claim 1 wherein the scheduling delivery is provided by  
2 a management sever coupled to the network.

1                    3.        The method of claim 2 wherein the network comprises a cable  
2 television network or a network of computers.

1                    4.        The method of claim 1 further comprising associating the selected  
2 secured media object copy with a residual file to form an unsecured media object copy.

1                    5.        The method of claim 4 outputting the unsecured media object copy on  
2 a display of the client device.

1                    6.        The method of claim 4 wherein the associating is provided at the client  
2 device.

1                    7.        The method of claim 1 wherein the replicating is provided at the  
2 management server.

1                    8.        The method of claim 1 wherein the secured media object comprises an  
2 ID number.

1                    9.        The method of claim 1 wherein the network of computers is the  
2 Internet.

1                    10.       The method of claim 1 wherein the client device is selected from a  
2 television, a computer, a personal digital assistant, a network computer, and a workstation.

1                    11.       A system for providing security to compressed digital media, the  
2 system including a medium for computer codes, the codes include at least:

3                    a code directed to forming a secured media object and a residual mask for the  
4 secured media object, the secured media object being disabled;

5                    a code directed to replicating the secured media object into a plurality of  
6 secured media object copies 1 through N, each of the secured media object copies  
7 representing the secured media object, where N represents an integer greater than 1;

8                    a code directed to transferring the secured media object copies 1 through N  
9 into respective distribution servers 1 through N through a network;

10                   a code directed to storing the secured media object copies 1 through N in  
11 memories of the respective distribution servers 1 through N;

12                   a code directed to scheduling delivery based upon a selected time and date of  
13 one of the secured media object copies at one of the distribution servers to a client device  
14 through the network; and

15                   a code directed to transferring the selected secured media object copy from the  
16 selected distribution server at the selected delivery time and date through the network.

1                    12.       The system of claim 11 wherein the computer codes are provided on a  
2 single memory or a distributed memory.